

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 18, 1961

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I am grateful to you for undertaking on short notice this important mission to Germany and West Berlin.

The main purpose of your mission is to reassure the people of West Berlin, while at the same time talking frankly with Mayor Brandt. The public statements and the letter to Mayor Brandt which we have reviewed together give general guidance for this mission. But, in addition, I hope that you will find an opportunity to speak frankly with Mayor Brandt in an effort to make it clear to him that in these next months it will be very important to avoid hasty criticism of each other.

Finally, I hope that you and your colleagues will take the opportunity of this visit to observe closely the existing situation in Germany and in West Berlin so that you may advise me, on your return, of any actions which you think it might be wise for us to take to strengthen the interests of the United States in this area.

With renewed thanks,

Sincerely,

The Honorable Lyndon Johnson

The Vice President

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E.O. 14176, SEC. 6(c), 6(d), 6(e) AND

14176.1 (b) (6)(A), (7)(B), (7)(C)

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